

The giddiness many congressmen and women possessed from being a part of this historic event had us acting like high school students filing onto the platform in the minutes before President Barack Obama was to become our 44th President. House and Senate members gathered for Obama's inauguration ninety minutes before the event began; dozens of Senators and Representatives took turns going to the podium to take pictures where President Obama would take the oath of office.

The excitement of the legislators was simply a reflection of the massive, festive crowd gathered. I managed to take in the experience with the hundreds of thousands gathered earlier in the day when I was on the mall. At 8:30 this morning, people mobbed the area from Fourth Street to the Washington Monument. But it wasn't the crowd so much as it was the attitude. Not just upbeat but joyous. And there were a million cameras and cell phone cameras to share this unforgettable experience with family, friends, the rest of the country, and the rest of the world.